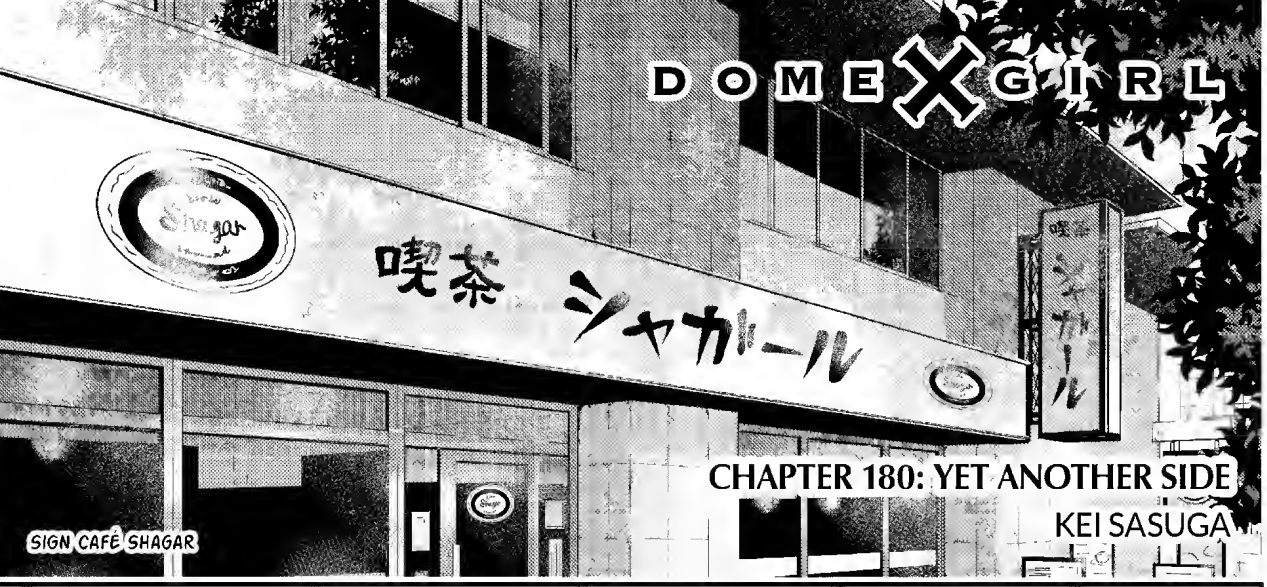
KODANSHA COMICS

CHAPTER 180

KEI SASUGA

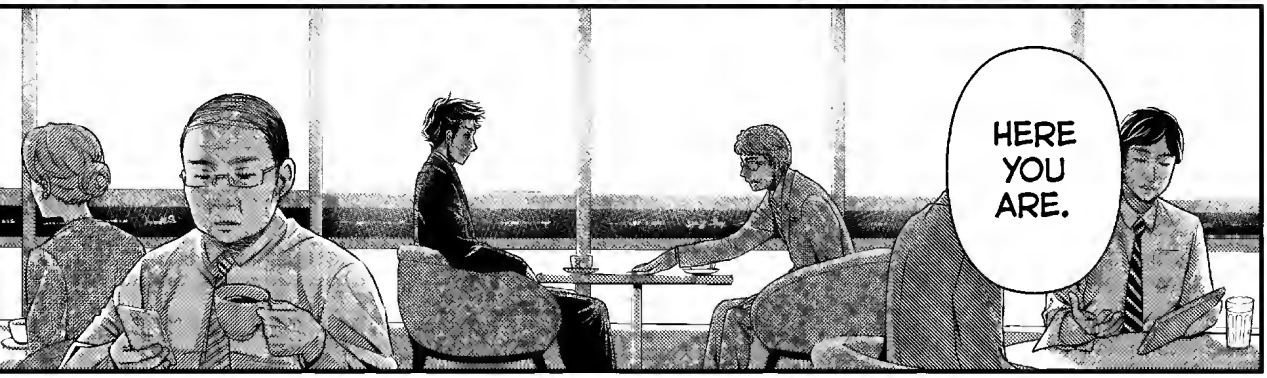
DOME X GIRL

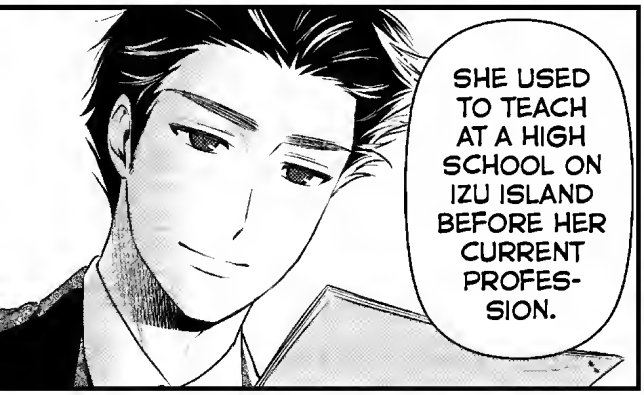


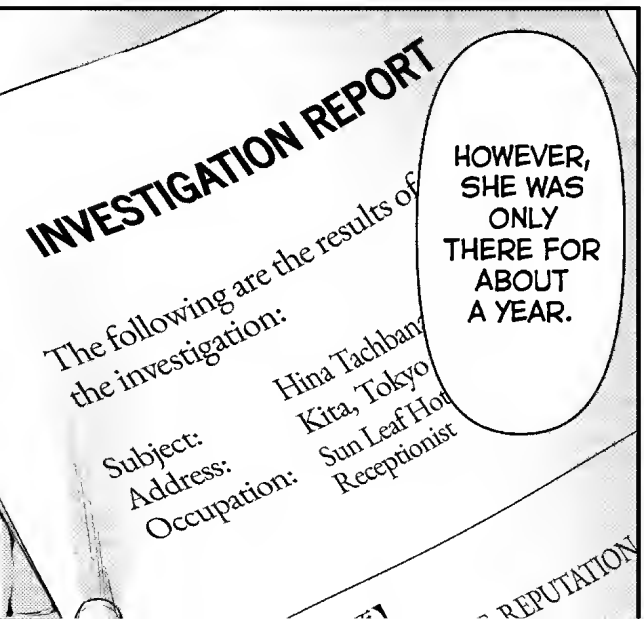
SIGN CAFÉ SHAGAR

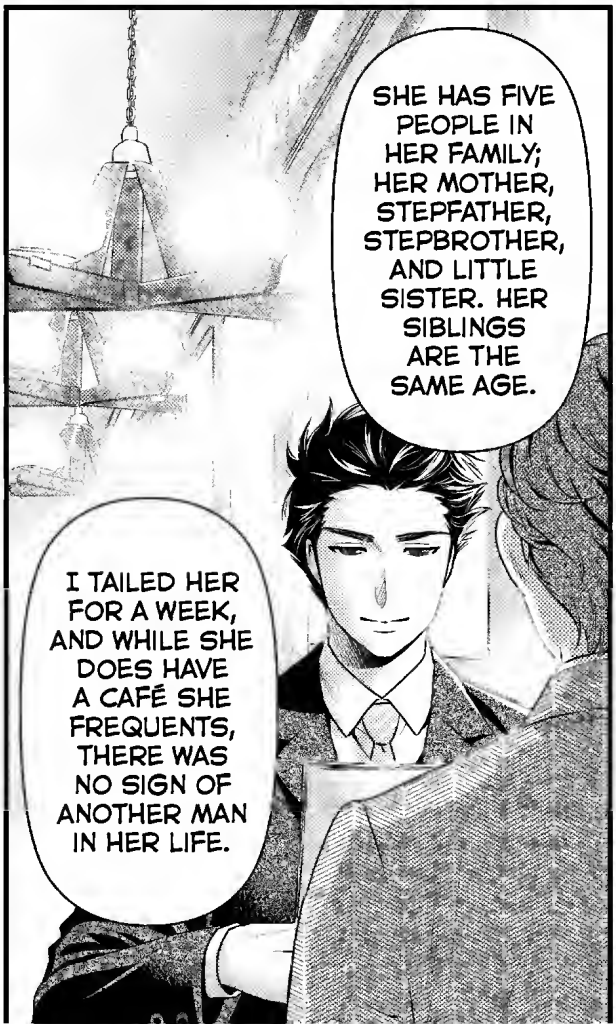
CHAPTER 180: YET ANOTHER SIDE

KEI SASUGA









SIGN: RAMEN SHOJIRO
MMMM!
SLURP
THE FISH BROTH IS SO RICH!

OH, YEAH. RUI TOLD ME ABOUT YOU GUYS' BEACH TRIP.
SOUNDS LIKE YOU HAD A GOOD TIME.
DID ANY-THING JUICY HAPPEN ?

I'M GLAD I FINALLY GOT TO TRY THIS PLACE.
I ALWAYS WANTED TO CHECK IT OUT WHENEVER I PASSED BY.
I'VE HEARD WOMEN DON'T LIKE GOING TO RAMEN SHOPS AND STUFF ALONE. HOW TRUE IS THAT?
WELL, IT'S PROBABLY SILLY, BUT I JUST CAN'T HELP FEELING SELF-CONSCIOUS, YOU KNOW?

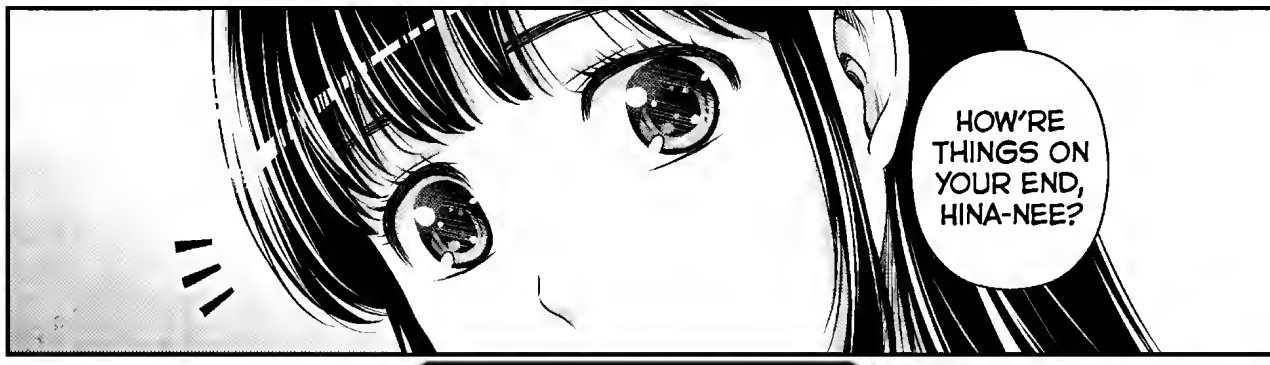
OH, YEAH. I GUESS SOME PROGRESS WAS MADE,
LOVE-WISE.

JUICY? LET'S SEE...
ONE OF MY UPPER-CLASS-MEN GOT DRUNK AND KINDA THREW A FIT.
AND AL WAS ALMOST TEMPTED TO THE DARK SIDE...

OH, I'M FINE!
ACTUALLY, THANKS TO THAT, I...
ONE OF OUR LIT CLUB UNDERCLASS-MEN, RIGHT?
SORRY.
THIS SLEEPOVER KINDA CAME OUTTA NOWHERE, HUH?
GLAD YOU NEXT
NO WAY! TO SHIBA-SAKI?! WHEN?!
KEEP YOUR VOICE DOWN, SEMPAI!
SHH!
HUH ?!
I...
...GOT TO CONFESS.
...
YOU ...?
I TOLD HIM MY FEELINGS WHEN WE WERE ALONE LAST NIGHT.
HE WAS REALLY EMBARRASSED AND JUST NODDED.
BUT HE SAID HE DIDN'T WANT TO GO OUT OFFICIALLY UNTIL HE WINS A BIG LITERARY AWARD.
SO, FOR NOW,
I'M GONNA STAY BY HIS SIDE AND SUPPORT HIM.
CON-GRATS!
THAT'S GREAT!
AWW!

I WISH I COULD'VE BEEN A FLY ON THAT WALL!

OH, GOD! I'M GETTING CHOKED UP!
AHH, TO BE YOUNG AGAIN!
THAT'S SO ADOR-ABLE!


HOW'RE THINGS ON YOUR END, HINA-NEE?

I DON'T WANT YOU TO COLLAPSE ON THE STREET AGAIN, Y'KNOW?
カチャ… CLINK

HEY... IF YOU'RE EVER IN TROUBLE, LET ME KNOW, OKAY?
WHENEVER SOMETHING HAPPENS, YOUR FIRST REACTION IS TO BOTTLE IT UP.
I'M JUST ...
...WOR-RIED ABOUT YOU.

EVERY-THING GOING OKAY?
HUH?
SAME OLD, SAME OLD, I GUESS.

...
NATSUO-KUN...

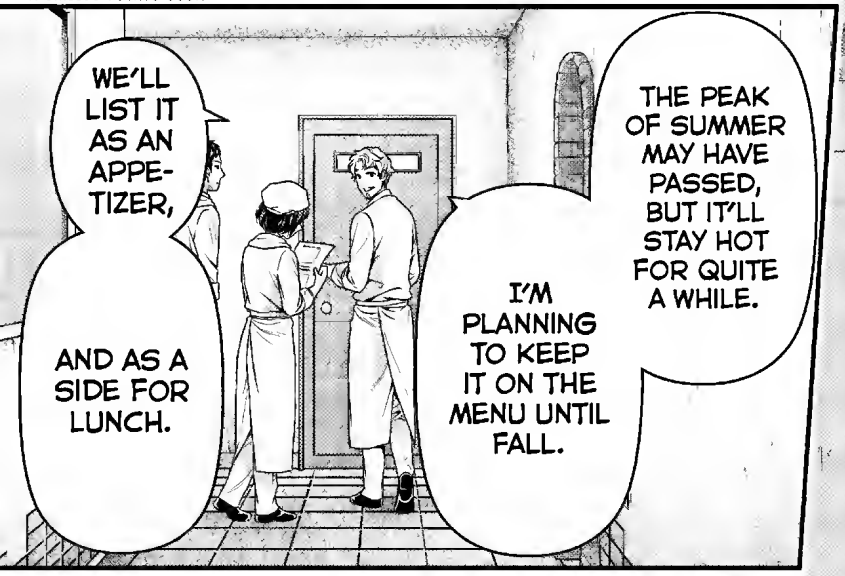
IF I'M IN TROUBLE ...
...WILL YOU PROTECT ME?
ER...
PFF
I'M JUST KIDDING!
SLAP
I'M FIIINE. NOTHING TO REPORT!
SLAP

THINGS ARE GOING WELL AT WORK.
MY SENIORS HAVE BEEN REALLY GOOD TO ME.
出口 (中央口)
Central Exit
和泉2丁目
永福1丁目 松原1・2・3丁目
...
FANCY MEETING YOU HERE.
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?
G-
GOOD, THANK YOU.
OH, RIGHT.
I WANTED TO ASK YOU SOMETHING, SO THIS IS PERFECT.
HELLO.
HEADING HOME NOW?
HINA-SAN.

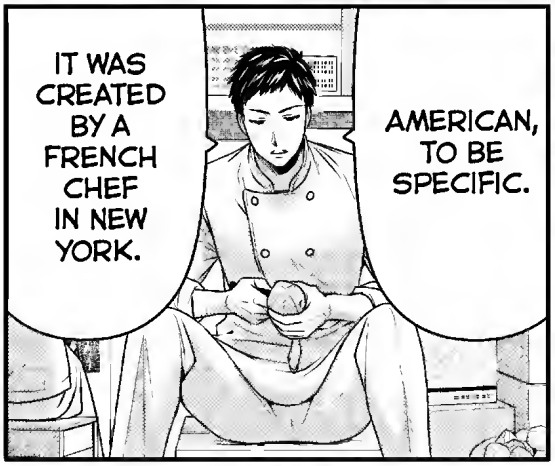
I KNOW YOU TURNED ME DOWN, BUT...
I HAD A SNEAKING SUSPICION SINCE NONE OF MY MESSAGES HAVE BEEN MARKED AS "READ" FOR A WHILE.
DID YOU BLOCK ME ON LINE?
...SURELY YOU WOULDN'T DO SOME-THING SO PETTY...
...AS TO BLOCK ME, WOULD YOU?
that. I propose
what I did for your sa
I may have sounded like I
was criticizing you that night,
and I apologize for that.
However, was anything I said
wrong? I merely offered you
a reliable and realistic option
before you start to get antsy
from seeing everyone around
you get married and build
happy families.
Besides, wouldn't settling down
please your family, as well? Your
mother seemed rather worried
about your future the last time I
spoke to her. I think it would
be best to give her
some peace of
mind and
I'M SORRY. I'VE BEEN TO BUSY TO CHECK ...
I SEE. WELL, THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
I MAY HAVE COME ON A BIT TOO STRONGLY.
WE SHOULD HAVE TAKEN MORE TIME TO GET TO KNOW EACH OTHER FIRST.
THEN PERHAPS YOU'D HAVE UNDERSTOOD WHERE I WAS COMING FROM.
FOR NOW, I'D LIKE TO SET ASIDE THE RELA-TIONSHIP IDEA.
MAYBE WE CAN START OVER AS FRIENDS AND...
I'M NOT INTER-ESTED!

I WANTED TO RETURN IT,
BUT I COULDN'T FIND THE COURAGE TO SEE YOU AGAIN AND KEPT IT.
AS I SAID BEFORE,
I CAN'T ACCEPT YOUR GIFTS WHEN I HAVE NO INTENTION OF DATING YOU.
SO, PLEASE...
...STOP SENDING ME THINGS LIKE THIS.
IT BOTH-ERS ME.
SO—
FORGET ABOUT THAT.
I WANTED YOU TO HAVE IT.
THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SO RE-SERVED.
I MAY HAVE UNDER-STATED IT BEFORE...
SHUDDER
...BUT I DON'T THINK YOUR ATTITUDE OF RETURNING EVERYTHING IS VERY BECOMING, EITHER.

*A CHILLED POTATO SOUP.

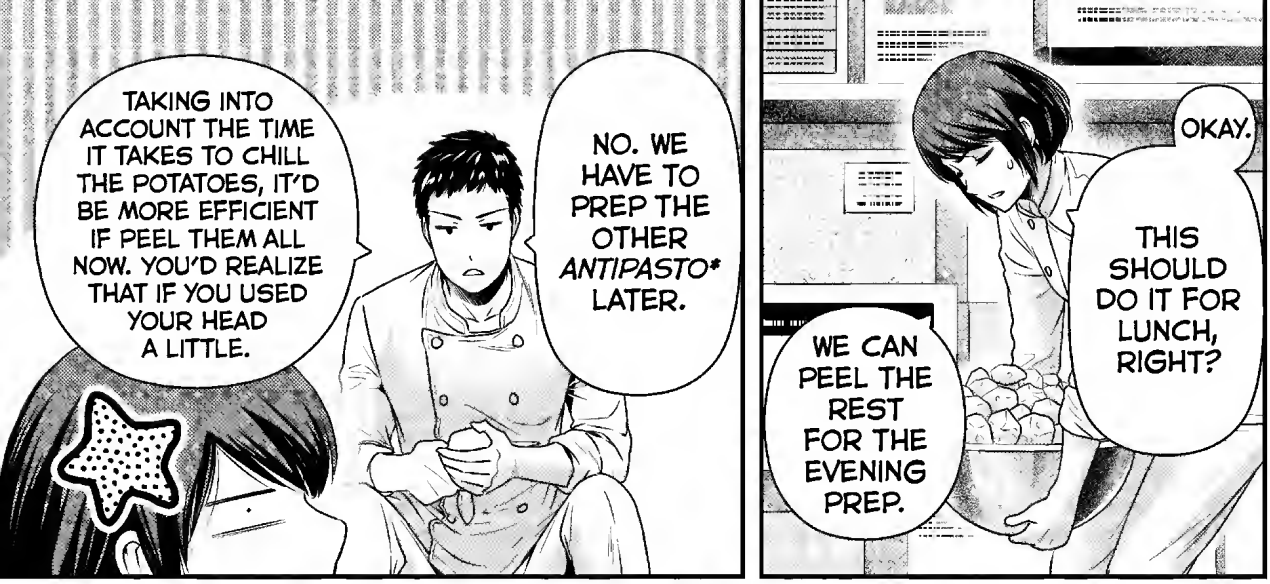


ALL RIGHT, THEN.
GET PEELING!
とIID
じゃがいも
じゃがいも
じゃがいも
SEE?
ドンっ
BOXES: HOKKAIDO POTATOES

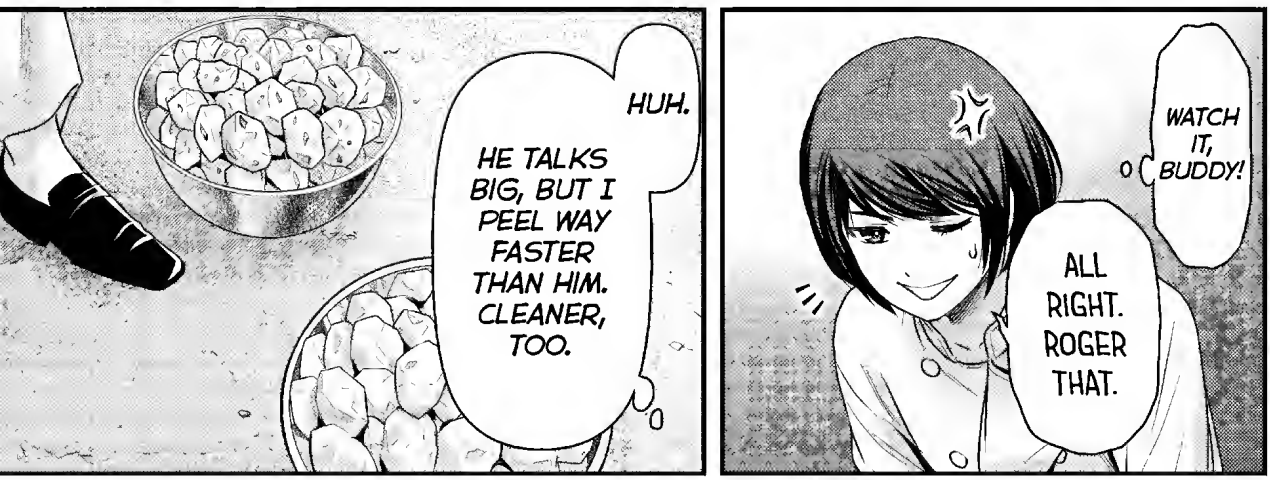

IT WAS CREATED BY A FRENCH CHEF IN NEW YORK.
AMERICAN, TO BE SPECIFIC.

ISN'T VICHYSSOISE A FRENCH DISH?
シャキ
シャキ

SO, IT ISN'T TOO FAR-FETCHED TO ARRANGE THE DISH.
SORRY TO CRUSH YOUR HOPES OF GETTING OUT OF PEELING.
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!


TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE TIME IT TAKES TO CHILL THE POTATOES, IT'D BE MORE EFFICIENT IF PEEL THEM ALL NOW. YOU'D REALIZE THAT IF YOU USED YOUR HEAD A LITTLE.
NO. WE HAVE TO PREP THE OTHER *ANTIPASTO* LATER.
OKAY.
THIS SHOULD DO IT FOR LUNCH, RIGHT?
WE CAN PEEL THE REST FOR THE EVENING PREP.

*APPETIZER.


HUH.
HE TALKS BIG, BUT I PEEL WAY FASTER THAN HIM. CLEANER, TOO.
WATCH IT, BUDDY!
ALL RIGHT. ROGER THAT.

YOU'RE A FAST PEELER, AT LEAST.
NYEEEH
IF YOU HAVE TIME TO TRASH TALK, THEN MOVE YOUR HANDS!
SW
IF

CAN YOU TEACH ME HOW YOU DO IT?
IT'S FASTER TO SAVE THE EYES AND PITS FOR LAST.

...
THANKS.
GOTCHA. I'LL GIVE IT A SHOT.

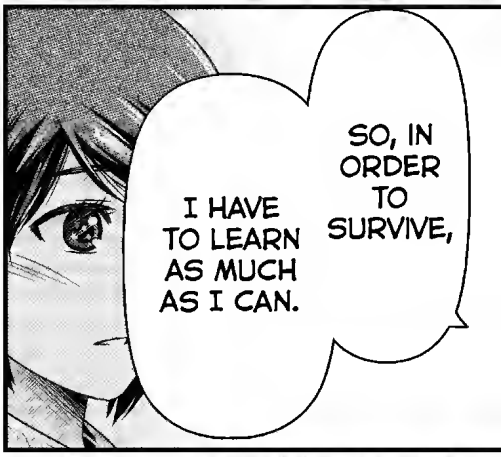
THE REST IS JUST PRACTICE.
THEN DIG OUT THE EYES WITH THE HEEL OF THE KNIFE LIKE SO.
PEEL IT FROM TOP TO BOTTOM LIKE AN APPLE,

I FIGURED YOU COULD DO EVERY-THING PERFECTLY SINCE YOU ALWAYS TALK DOWN TO EVERYONE.
WHAT A SHOCK.

HUH ...
HOW LONG DID YOU WORK THERE?
THREE YEARS.
THE FIRST PLACE I WORKED AT WAS A JAPANESE RESTAU-RANT.
I PRACTICED PEELING AND DECORATIVE CUTTING WITH A KITCHEN KNIFE THERE ...
...BUT WE DIDN'T USE POTATOES THAT MUCH.
...
WHEN HAVE I EVER TALKED DOWN TO ANYONE?
HE DOESN'T EVEN REALIZE IT...
...
I DIDN'T HAVE THE LUXURY.
DIDN'T GO.
WHAT ABOUT HIGH SCHOOL?
THREE YEARS?!
I'M THE OLDEST, SO BECAUSE OF MY SIBLINGS, I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE.
MY DAD'S DEAD, AND THERE'S ONLY SO MUCH MY MOM CAN DO TO SUPPORT ME AND MY THREE SIBLINGS BY HERSELF.
...TO HELP FEED MY FAMILY.
I ONLY STARTED THIS JOB...

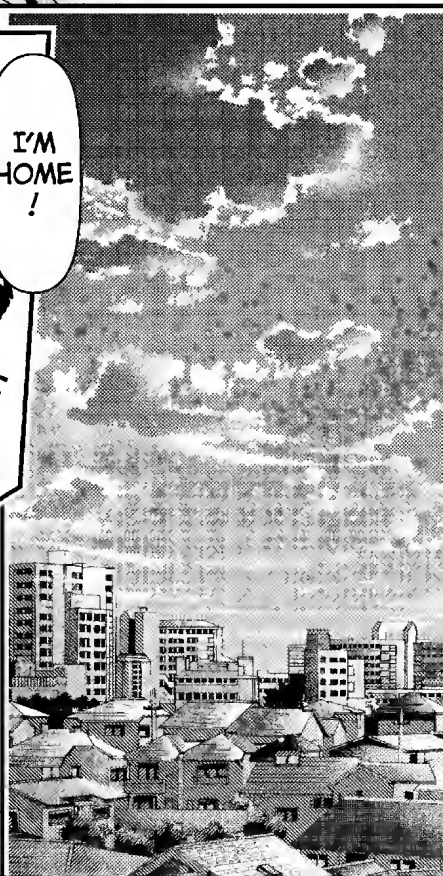
愛知県産
BUT NOW, I THINK IT WAS FOR THE BEST.
EVEN WITHOUT A DIPLOMA,
AS LONG AS I POLISH MY SKILLS AND LEARN THE TRADE, I WON'T GO HUNGRY.

...HEY.
TALKING'S FINE AND ALL, BUT KEEP PEELING.
YEAH, YEAH!


SO, IN ORDER TO SURVIVE,
I HAVE TO LEARN AS MUCH AS I CAN.

HEY, HINA-CHAN!
OH! YOU'RE HOME EARLY, FUJII-SAN.

I'M HOME!

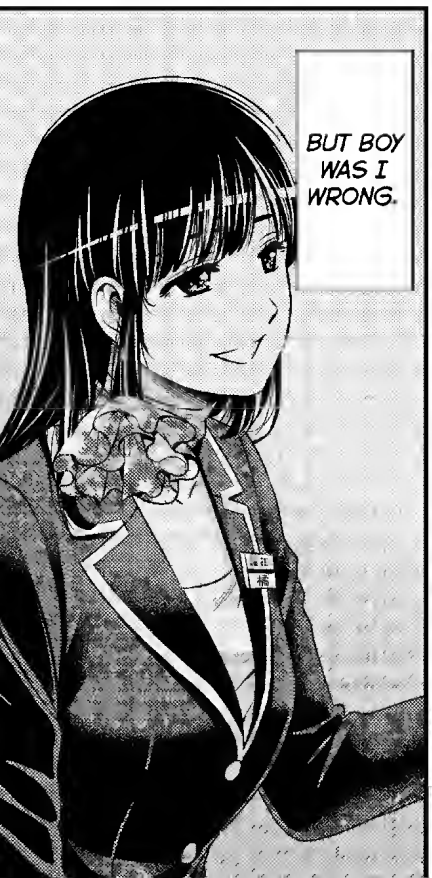


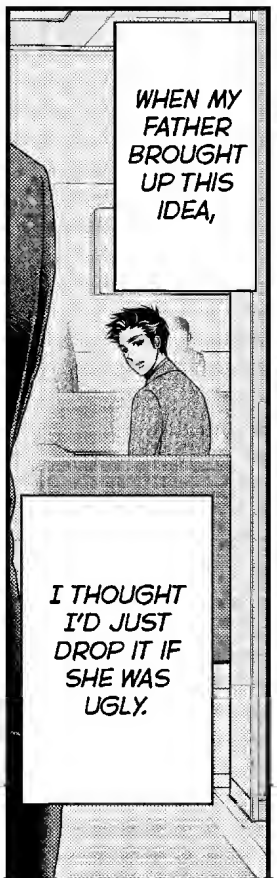
OH, YEAH. A PACKAGE ARRIVED FOR YOU.
*THINLY SLICED PORK COOKED IN BROTH.
WE'RE HAVING CHILLED SHABU-SHABU* TONIGHT.
SORRY MY COOKING REPERTOIRE ISN'T THE GREATEST.
THE COMPANY'S BEEN TRYING TO CUT DOWN ON OVERTIME LATELY.
OOH! SOUNDS GREAT!
APPARENTLY, IT'S FROM NATSUO.
WHAT COULD IT BE?
WHAT WAS IT?
TMP
HUH? HINA-CHAN?
I'LL TAKE A LOOK.
HE DIDN'T SAY HE WAS GONNA SEND ANY-THING...
RSTL
RSTL
THUD

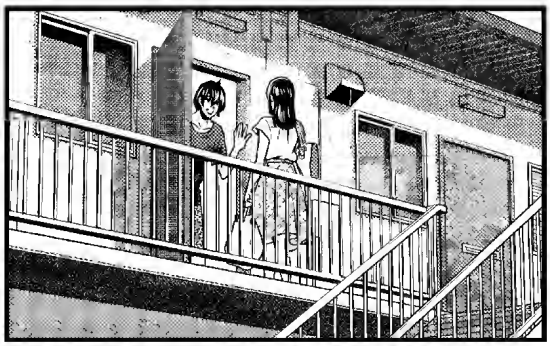
THIS IS TANABE.
I APOLOGIZE FOR STARTLING YOU.
I FOUND SOME SKIRTS THAT I THOUGHT WOULD LOOK PERFECT ON YOU.
YOU WERE WEARING PANTS WHEN WE MET THE OTHER DAY,
BUT I THINK SKIRTS SUIT YOU MUCH BETTER.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT NOT OPEN IT IF I SENT IT UNDER MY NAME,
SO I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF USING YOUR STEPBROTHER'S NAME.
I HOPE YOU'LL WEAR THEM.
PS: I'M MOSTLY SENDING THESE FOR MY OWN GRATIFICATION,
SO PLEASE ...
...DON'T FEEL THE NEED TO RETURN THEM.

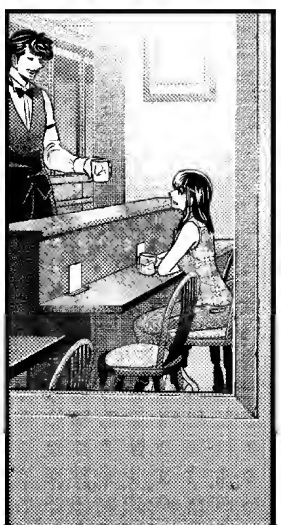
K.K.K.!

TIK カチ
TIK カチ
TIK カチ


BUT BOY WAS I WRONG.


WHEN MY FATHER BROUGHT UP THIS IDEA,
I THOUGHT I'D JUST DROP IT IF SHE WAS UGLY.





I SWEAR ...
...I'LL MAKE YOU MINE.